

REMARKS

Applicants have thoroughly considered the Examiner's remarks in the April 6, 2004 action. Claims 1-19 stand rejected; claim 20 stands allowed. By this Amendment A, claims 1-2, 4, 8, 11-14, and 20 have been amended and claims 3, 9-10, 15, and 17-19 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 11-14, 16, and 20 are now presented in the application for further consideration. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application in light of the amendments and following remarks.

The Examiner has requested a substitute specification pursuant to 37 CFR 1.125(a) because the current specification includes "many extraneous marks and blemishes which could affect the scanning of the current application". This application is a national stage application filed in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 371 and, according to MPEP 1895.01(C), the Office receives the priority document directly from the International Bureau. Thus, Applicant submits that any objections to the quality of the specification should be addressed to the International Bureau. In any case, for the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant has included a clean copy of the PCT application with this response. Furthermore, the other minor objections of the Examiner are addressed by the amendments to the specification contained within this Amendment A. Thus, Applicant submits that the objections to the specification should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, and 20 are objected to because of the informalities listed on pages 2-3 of the Office action dated April 6, 2004. Claims 10, 15 and 18 have been canceled by this Amendment A. Claims 1, 8, 12, and 20 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, the Examiner may withdraw the objections.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the allowance of claim 20 and the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims 3-4, 10, and 15. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended the independent claims to include the allowable subject matter. Therefore, independent claims 1, 8, and 12, in addition to claim 20, are allowable. Claims 2 and 4-7 depend from claim 1; claim 11 depends from claim 8; and claims 13,

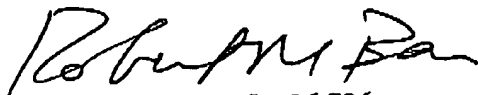
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14, and 16 depend from claim 12. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the claims from which they depend.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2, 4-8, 11-14, 16, and 20 are allowable and that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$55 for a one (1) month extension of time up to and including today's date to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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\*Enclosure